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The President's Daily Brief

June 22, 1974

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~~Top Secret~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

June 22, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

President Sadat is continuing his concerted effort to induce the Palestinians to participate in the Geneva conference and coordinate their position with Jordan. *(Page 1)*

The Cairo press is now reporting that Foreign Minister Fahmi will travel to Moscow on July 15. *(Page 2)*

[redacted] 25X1

President Sadat will send a delegation to Libya early next month for a review of relations between the two countries. *(Page 4)*

Moscow has recently reaffirmed its opposition to West Germany's proposal for setting up a Federal Environmental Office in West Berlin. *(Page 5)*

A group of Afghan officers is plotting against the Daoud government and may move in a few days. *(Page 6)*

Notes on *Page 7* discuss fedayeen use of ground-to-air missiles, [redacted] 25X1 25X1 25X1

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EGYPT

President Sadat is continuing his concerted effort to induce the Palestinians to participate in the Geneva conference and coordinate their position with Jordan. Despite his numerous statements about the need to recognize Palestinian rights, Sadat's [redacted] actions and what he has left unsaid in public have made it clear to the Palestinians that his support for them is limited by such considerations as Jordan's participation, the Israeli position, and US views. [redacted] he has publicly insisted that they must coordinate their stand with Jordan, along with Egypt and Syria. [redacted]

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Sadat backs the recent decision by the Palestine National Council to establish a "national authority" on West Bank territory freed of Israeli occupation. Although this support would appear directly counter to Jordan's position, the wording of Sadat's statements on this issue do not preclude support for King Husayn's promise--which the PLO rejects--to allow the Palestinians self-determination after Jordan has negotiated for the return of the West Bank.

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Sadat recently appointed Foreign Minister Fahmi to oversee the coordination of Egyptian-Palestinian policy. Fahmi has not been closely involved in the conduct of foreign relations with other Arabs, largely because his personality grates on Arab sensitivities. He is a tough bargainer, and Sadat's use of him with the Palestinians is probably another signal that Sadat's main objective is to get the Palestinian leaders involved in the negotiating process.

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EGYPT-USSR

The Cairo press is now reporting that Foreign Minister Fahmi will travel to Moscow on July 15. The ostensible purpose of the visit is to arrange an Egyptian-Soviet summit, but Fahmi will also try to determine Moscow's intentions toward resumption of arms deliveries suspended last April. The summit is unlikely to take place if Moscow refuses to resume the arms flow. 25X1

Fahmi and the Soviets will also discuss the timing of the Geneva conference, and differences of view on this point could become a source of renewed argument. 25X1

Cairo's interest in the future of arms deliveries undoubtedly reflects concern that the suspension is beginning to tell within the Egyptian armed forces. Military leaders may be pressing for some relief from a situation that has left Egypt's Soviet-equipped forces without a continued supply of spare parts for over two months. 25X1

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EGYPT-LEBANON

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EGYPT-LIBYA

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Sadat is suspicious of Qadhafi's sincerity in seeking a rapprochement and is convinced that the Libyan leader is too erratic to make a personal effort worthwhile. Sadat would, however, appreciate an end to the Libyan propaganda campaign against his negotiating policy with Israel. Cairo's own anti-Libyan press campaign was halted early this month, and Sadat will probably be satisfied if the Egyptian delegation obtains nothing more than reciprocal action from Tripoli.

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USSR - WEST BERLIN

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Moscow has recently reaffirmed its opposition to West Germany's proposal for setting up a Federal Environmental Office in West Berlin, and has threatened retaliation should Bonn carry out its plan. [redacted]

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The Soviets could refuse to compromise in the negotiations on legal assistance they are conducting with West Germany, or they could create "technical complications" for West German consuls who represent citizens of West Berlin in Communist countries. What the Soviets really want may be assurances from the Western powers that the environment office, if it is opened in West Berlin, will be the last West German initiative of its kind.

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AFGHANISTAN

A group of Afghan air force officers is plotting against the Daoud government and may move in a few days, [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] A coup attempt would have little chance of success unless the officers were able to rally disaffected civilian groups and obtain significant support from the army.

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Fedayeen: Ground-to-air missiles--presumably the shoulder-fired SA-7--were used against Israeli aircraft this week during the Israeli attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. This suggests that the fedayeen, who have responsibility for the security and defense of the camps, now control a quantity of the missiles. A substantial supply of SA-7s would significantly increase the fedayeen's ability to strike at civilian aircraft, particularly during the critical periods of takeoff and landing. A terrorist team armed with two of these missiles was arrested in Rome last September while preparing such an attack. The missile is not highly effective against high performance military aircraft. 25X1

USSR-Egypt: 25X1

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USSR-US: 25X1

Argentina: 25X1

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